SUFFOLK NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 18, Issue 4 December 2009

The Dawson House, shown c. 1930, was, we believe, built by Mr. & Mrs. Horace Phillips and enlarged many times by them. The second owners were Dr. & Mrs. Challis Dawson. It is now the home for local history as headquarters of SNHS.

Come on by for some Christmas cheer! Let the season begin right here.

Never mind what we mentioned in our summer issue—there will be four sites open this year's Candlelight Tour. They are all in various states of renovation but will be beautifully decorated as usual, with fresh holiday greenery. At each home guests will meet local people speaking as the original homeowners. And there will be numerous shopping opportunities, including our popular annual Sugar Plum Kitchen. And music, lots of music. This year cameras are welcome.

The Phillips-Dawson House should be well known to our members by now. Here guests will meet lumberman Horace Phillips (d. 1926) and his wife Evie (d. 1936) and Dr. Challis Dawson (1892-1980) and his French wife Yvonne (1892-1978), a well known concert pianist.

Less well known is the Eley-McKay House next door. Like the Dawson House this house was built about 1880. Mr. & Mrs. Walter Eley and their McKay descendants owned the house for about 90 years. Mr. Eley was in the mercantile business with his brother. Mrs. Eley was born Ida Corbell and her sister Sallie, or LaSalle, was the wife of Confederate General George Pickett. Guests will meet Mrs. Eley and, perhaps, her visiting sister, Mrs. Pickett, as portrayed by modern ladies. Property of SNHS.

The old Crumpler house at 201 Grace was built, we believe, by Zuni native William Mahone Crumpler, Sr., 1880-1950, a lawyer who either built over or enlarged an earlier residence on that corner as his family home. The Crumplers eventually converted the house to apartments. A recent major renovation has returned it to a single family residence. Hear a bit about the Crumplers and the house from Mr. Crumpler, in the form of a well known modern Suffolkian. Owner, George Hranowsky.

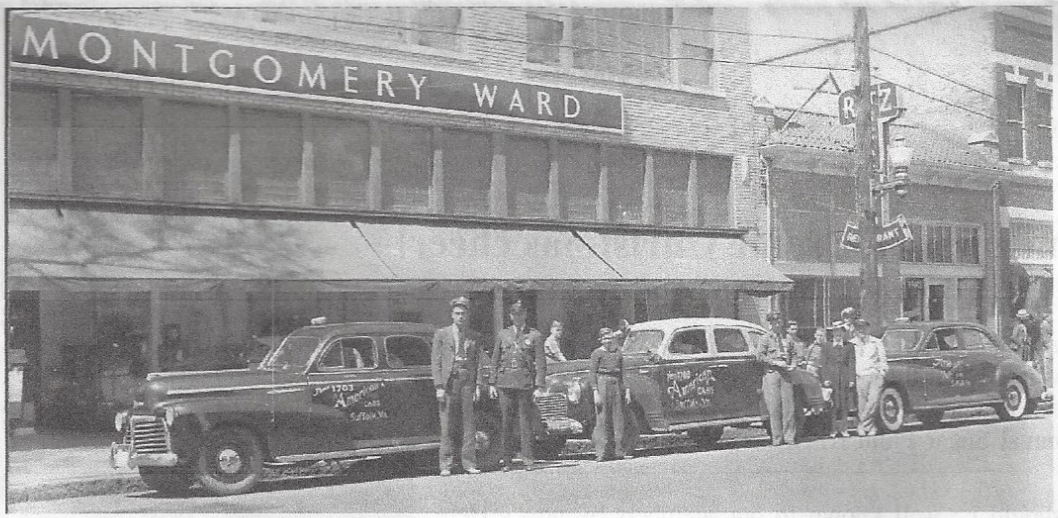
Our fourth stop is in the 100 block of North Main Street, where there were residences a hundred years ago. Commercial buildings soon replaced them. In the 1930s one of the new buildings housed Montgomery Ward. When that business left downtown years ago, other businesses came to fill the space. The building's newest incarnation is as the Montgomery Lofts with a law office downstairs. Come visit a loft and see about this new approach to downtown living. Elevator available. Owner, Marcus Pollard.

Billie Earnest as Mrs. Gen. Pickett is one of the many voices from the past to be heard December 5 and 6.

Remember the horse drawn surrey is available to transport ticket holders. Stops will be at the corner of Bank and Franklin Streets, and at the rear of the park beside the Courthouse.

To learn more about the residents of Bank Street, read *We Are the Poorer for Their Passing: Miss Marie Remembers Bank Street*, available at the Seaboard Station Gift Shop.

This Hamblin photo c. 1935 looking toward Main Street on Bank Street shows three of our tour stops. On the left is the Phillips-Dawson House with the Eley-McKay house just beyond. On the right side of the street is the Crumpler House.



April 14, 1942 view of Montgomery Ward building on N. Main St.

MRS. E. M. CORBELL DIES AT DAUGHTERS' HOME

Suffolk, Va., May 17.—Mrs. Elizabeth M. Corbell, mother-in-law of the late Gen. George E. Pickett, of Gettysburg fame, died here this afternoon at the home of a daughter, Mrs. William Walter Eley, in Bank street. She was 83 years old, having been born November 25, 1825.

Mrs. Corbell was taken ill early last January while visiting a daughter, Mrs. La Salle Corbell Pickett, at the Ontario apartment house in Washington. She never recovered from the attack and was brought to Suffolk on March 28. The end was brought about by a complication of diseases.

The funeral will take place at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning from St. Paul's P. E. church, and the service will be conducted by the rector, Rev. Joseph B. Dunn.

The following have been selected as active pallbearers: James Robert Jordon, of Smithfield; Thomas B. Wright, of Smithfield; John D. Corbell, of Port Norfolk; Dr. John E. Phillips, of Suffolk; John W. Eley, of Suffolk, and C. C. Phillips, of New York.

The list of honorary pallbearers has not been completed.

Mrs. Corbell, whose maiden name was Phillips, was a widow of John David Corbell Sr. Other children aside from those named are: Mrs. W. F. Cotton, of Chuckatuck and Dr. E. F. Corbell, of Sunbury, N. C.

The deceased is survived by eighteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Among the grandsons is Major George E. Pickett, United States army, now stationed in San Francisco.

The interment will occur in the cemetery of St. John's P. E. church, near Chuckatuck.

Obituary from the Virginian-Pilot, May 18, 1909. Thanks to Billie Earnest.

Our wish to you—card postmarked Dec. 20, 1910, from the SNHS postcard collection

Please note: Our telephone number is 757-539-2781. A recent publication listed it incorrectly. Email us at snhs@verizon.net. Visit our website: www.suffolkhistory.org